

III. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) Integrated circuit (IC) module apparatus for dispensing postage for a mail piece comprising:

a memory for storing first data representative of a value of postage funds;

an interface for receiving selected information concerning the mail piece and information concerning a value of the postage, the value of the postage funds being a function of the value of the postage; and

a processor for encrypting at least the selected information to generate second data, the first data and the second data being provided for creation of a postage indicium indicative of payment of the postage.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second data includes a digital signature.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said memory further includes an encryption algorithm, said selected information being encrypted in accordance with said encryption algorithm.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said encryption algorithm is an RSA algorithm.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein encryption algorithm is a digital signature algorithm (DSA).

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said memory includes information for determining past postage dispensation.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the value of the postage funds is changed in response to a purchase.

8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for generating a content of a mail piece, said mail piece including a cover for enclosing said content, said apparatus comprising:

an input for receiving data representative of at least said content and a selected location for an indicator, said data excluding a value of cost of delivery of said mail piece;

a processor for computing the cost of delivery of said mail piece based on said data; and

an output for generating said content based on said data, and applying at least an the indicator indicative of the ~~computer~~ cost onto said content at at the selected location thereof.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said cost includes postage for delivering said mail piece.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said indicator includes a postage indicium.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said indicator is applied onto said content close to an address.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein information concerning said cost is read by a scanner's scanning said indicator.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said cover is an envelope.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said envelope has at least one window coinciding with said indicator such that at least part of said indicator exposes through the at least one window.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the selected location is a corner of said content.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor derives, from said data, information for determining a weight of said content.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor derives, from said, information concerning pagination of the content.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor derives, from said data, information concerning an address.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein said information includes zip code information.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor derives, from said data, information for identifying at least one party to which said cost is attributed.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said processor computes said cost based on one or more selected shipping rates.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a memory for storing a database.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said database includes statistical information based on said cost.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said database includes information identifying said mail piece for tracking thereof.

26-81. (Previously Cancelled)

82. (Currently Amended) A system for dispensing postage for a mail piece comprising:

an IC module comprising a memory for storing first data representative of a value of postage funds;

an interface for receiving selected information concerning the mail piece and information concerning a value of the postage, the value of the postage funds being a function of the value of the postage; and

a processor for encrypting at least the selected information to generate second data; and

an output for generating a postage indicium indicative of payment of the postage based on at least the first data and the second data; and

a management information subsystem for processing documents.

83. (Original) The system of claim 82 further comprising a computer.

84. (Original) The system of claim 83 wherein said computer is a personal computer (PC).

85. (Original) The system of claim 82 further comprising a control element for controlling access to said system.

86. (Cancelled)

87. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 8682 wherein said documents include invoices.

88. (Original) The system of claim 82 further comprising an address cleanser for checking address information on the mail piece.

89. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 82 further comprising a ~~second interface for obtaining~~ the interface being adapted to obtain shipping rate information.

90. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 82 further comprising a ~~second~~ the interface for ~~communicating~~ being adapted to communicate with a remote computer.

91. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 82 further comprising a ~~second~~ the interface for ~~establishing~~ being adapted to establish a connection to a communication network.

92. (Original) The system of claim 91 wherein said communication network includes at least part of the Internet.

93. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 82200 further comprising a communicator for communicating information with a selected recipient.

94. (Cancelled)

95. (Original) The system of claim 93 wherein said communicator communicates with a certification authority other than the selected recipient to verify access by the selected recipient to the information.

96. (Original) The system of claim 82 wherein said second data includes a digital signature.

97. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 82201 further comprising a transmitter for transmitting facsimile information.

98. (Original) The system of claim 97 wherein said facsimile information is encrypted.

99. (Original) The system of claim 97 wherein said facsimile information includes a digital signature for authenticating the facsimile transmission.

100. (Original) The system of claim 82 further comprising a receiver for receiving facsimile information.

101. (Original) The system of claim 100 wherein said facsimile information is encrypted, said receiver includes a decoder for decrypting the encrypted facsimile information.

102. (Original) The system of claim 100 wherein said facsimile information includes a digital signature, said receiver includes a mechanism for verifying said digital signature.

103. (Original) The system of claim 82 wherein said memory further includes an encryption algorithm, said selected information being encrypted in accordance with said encryption algorithm.

104. (Original) The system of claim 103 wherein said encryption algorithm is an RSA algorithm.

105. (Original) The system of claim 103 wherein said encryption algorithm is a DSA.

106. (Original) The system of claim 82 wherein said memory includes information for determining past postage dispensation.

107. (Original) A method for use in an IC module for dispensing postage for mail piece comprising the steps of:

storing first data representative of a value of postage funds;

receiving selected information concerning the mail piece and information concerning a value of the postage, the value of the postage funds being a function of the value of the postage;

encrypting at least the selected information to generate second data, and

providing the first data and the second data for creation of a postage indicium indicative of payment of the postage.

108. (Original) The method of claim 107 wherein said second data includes a digital signature.

109. (Original) The method of claim 107 wherein said selected information is encrypted in accordance with an encryption algorithm.

110. (Original) The method of claim 109 wherein said encryption algorithm is an RSA algorithm.

111. (Original) The method of claim 109 wherein said encryption algorithm is a DSA.

112. (Original) The method of claim 107 wherein the value of the stored postage funds is changed in response to a purchase.

113. (Currently Amended) A method for generating a content of a mail piece, said mail piece including a cover for enclosing said content, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving data representative of at least said content and a selected location for an indicator, said data excluding a value of cost of delivery of said mail piece;

computing the cost of delivery of said mail piece based on said data;

generating said content based on said data; and

applying at least anthe indicator indicative of the computed cost onto said content at atthe selected location thereof.

114. (Original) The method of claim 113 wherein said cost includes postage for delivering said mail piece.

115. (Original) The method of claim 113 wherein said indicator includes a postage indicium.

116. (Original) The method of claim 113 wherein said indicator is applied onto said content close to an address.

117. (Original) The method of claim 113 wherein said cover is an envelope.

118. (Original) The method of claim 117 wherein said envelope has at least one window coinciding with said indicator such that at least part of said indicator exposes through the at least one window.

119. (Cancelled)

120. (Original) The method of claim 113 wherein the selected location is a corner of said content.

121. (Original) The method of claim 113 wherein information for determining a weight of said content is derived from said data.

122. (Original) The method of claim 113 wherein information concerning pagination of the content is derived from said data.

123. (Original) The method of claim 113 wherein information concerning an address is derived from said data.

124. (Original) The method of claim 123 wherein said information includes zip code information.

125. (Original) The method of claim 113 wherein information for identifying at least one party to which said cost is attributed is derived from said data.

126. (Original) The method of claim 113 wherein said cost is computed based on one or more selected shipping rates.

127. (Original) The method of claim 113 further comprising the step of storing a database.

128. (Original) The method of claim 127 wherein said database includes statistical information based on said cost.

129. (Original) The method of claim 127 wherein said database includes information identifying said mail piece for tracking thereof.

130-183. (Previously Cancelled)

184. (Currently Amended) A method for use in a system for dispensing postage for a mail piece, said system including an IC module, comprising the steps of:

storing first data representative of a value of postage funds in the IC module;

receiving by the IC module selected information concerning the mail piece and information concerning a value of the postage, the value of the postage funds being a function of the value of the postage;

encrypting by the IC module at least the selected information to generate second data; and

generating a postage indicium indicative of payment of the postage based on at least the first data and the second data; and

communicating information with a selected recipient.

185. (Original) The method of claim 184 further comprising the step of controlling access to said system.

186. (Original) The method of claim 184 further comprising the step of checking address information on the mail piece.

187. (Original) The method of claim 184 further comprising the step of obtaining shipping rate information.

188. (Cancelled)

189. (Original) The method of claim 188 wherein the communicating step includes the step of communicating with a certification authority other than the selected recipient to verify receipt by the selected recipient of the information.

190. (Original) The method of claim 188 wherein the communicating step including the step of communicating with a certification

authority other than the selected recipient to verify access by the selected recipient to the information.

191. (Original) The method of claim 184 wherein said second data includes a digital signature.

192. (Currently Amended) A method for sending a mail piece comprising the steps of:

indicating on the mail piece an indicia including information concerning a content in the mail piece; and

providing on the mail piece an indicator for affirming that the content is included in the mail piece, said indicator causing a processor of the mail piece to inform a third party of the information while the mail piece is being sent.

193. (Original) The method of claim 192 wherein the content includes a payment.

194. (Original) The method of claim 193 wherein the information includes an amount of the payment.

195. (Original) The method of claim 192 wherein the third party is an addressee of the mail piece.

196. (Original) The method of claim 192 wherein the indicator includes a digital signature.

197. (Original) The method of claim 192 wherein the information is encrypted.

198. (Original) The method of claim 192 wherein the information is incorporated in a postage indicium.

199. (New) A system for dispensing postage for a mail piece comprising:

an IC module comprising a memory for storing first data representative of a value of postage funds;

an interface for receiving selected information concerning the mail piece and information concerning a value of the postage, the value of the postage funds being a function of the value of the postage;

a processor for encrypting at least the selected information to generate second data;

an output for generating a postage indicium indicative of payment of the postage based on at least the first data and the second data; and

an address cleanser for checking address information on the mail piece.

200. (New) A system for dispensing postage for a mail piece comprising:

an IC module comprising a memory for storing first data representative of a value of postage funds;

an interface for receiving selected information concerning the mail piece and information concerning a value of the postage, the value of the postage funds being a function of the value of the postage;

a processor for encrypting at least the selected information to generate second data;

an output for generating a postage indicium indicative of payment of the postage based on at least the first data and the second data; and

a communicator for communicating information with a selected recipient.

201. (New) A system for dispensing postage for a mail piece comprising:

an IC module comprising a memory for storing first data representative of a value of postage funds;

an interface for receiving selected information concerning the mail piece and information concerning a value of the postage, the value of the postage funds being a function of the value of the postage;

a processor for encrypting at least the selected information to generate second data;

an output for generating a postage indicium indicative of payment of the postage based on at least the first data and the second data; and

a transmitter for transmitting facsimile information.